

JAN 05 2005

FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL FORM		Application Number	10/860843
		Filing Date	September 12, 2003
		First Named Inventor	Pranis, Robert A.
		Art Unit	1743
		Examiner Name	
Fax: 703-872-9306	Attorney Docket Number	58662US002	
Total Number of Pages in This Submission: 8			
Date: January 5, 2005		Attorney for Applicant: Robert W. Sprague	

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Issue Fee Transmittal <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment Transmittal	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition	<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences
<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/Declaration(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert a Provisional Application	<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Technology Center (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief)
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Patent
Case No.: 58662US002

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor: PRANIS, ROBERT A.

Application No.: 10/660843 Group Art Unit: 1743

Filed: September 12, 2003 Examiner: Unknown

Title: WELDED SAMPLE PREPARATION ARTICLES AND METHODS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

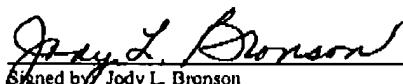
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Jan. 5, 2005


Signed by Jody L. Bronson

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR §§ 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, enclosed is a completed Form PTO-1449, citing references submitted for consideration by the Examiner. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return the enclosed Form PTO-1449 to indicate that each reference has been considered.

Copies of any cited foreign patents, foreign publications, non-patent literature documents, and any pending U.S. applications filed before June 30, 2003, are enclosed. Copies of any pending U.S. applications filed after June 30, 2003 that can be accessed on the USPTO's IFW system are not enclosed as per USPTO Waiver dated September 21, 2004. Copies of any U.S. patents and published U.S. patent applications are not enclosed.

Under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(1), I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

Application No.: 10/660843Case No.: 58662US002

Under 37 CFR § 1.704(d), I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and that this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 CFR § 1.56(c) more than thirty (30) days prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

A copy of the Search Report from a foreign counterpart application is enclosed.

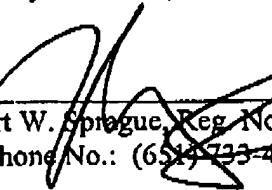
It is believed that no fee is due; however, in the event a fee is required, please charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 13-3723.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

1/5/05

By:


Robert W. Sprague, Reg. No.: 30,497
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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO (modified)

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Page 1 of 1

Application Number 10/660843

Filing Date September 12, 2003

First Named Inventor Pranis, Robert A.

Art Unit 1743

Examiner Name

Attorney Case Number 58662US002

U.S. Patent Documents

Exam. Init.*	Cite No.	Document Number	Publication Date or Issue Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Doc. Number-(Kind Code if Known)			
	A1	US- 5,368,729 A	11-29-1994	Stefkovich et al.	
	A2	US- 5,906,796 A	05-25-1999	Blevins et al.	
	A3	US-			
	A4	US-			
	A5	US-			
	A6	US-			
	A7	US-			
	A8	US-			
	A9	US-			
	A10	US-			
	A11	US-			

Foreign Patent Documents

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		Ctry. Code	Number+KindCode (if known)				
	B1						
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OTHER DOCUMENTS

Exam. Init.*	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published	Translation (Check if yes)
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	C2		
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Date Considered:

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 58662WO003	FOR FURTHER ACTION	see Form PCT/ISA/220 as well as, where applicable, Item 5 below.
International application No. PCT/US2004/022340	International filing date (day/month/year) 13/07/2004	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) 12/09/2003
Applicant 3M INNOVATIVE PROPERTIES COMPANY		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 4 sheets.

It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

1. **Basis of the report**
 - a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

 The International search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

 With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, see Box No. I.
 - b. Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box II).
 - c. Unity of invention is lacking (see Box III).
4. With regard to the title,

the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:
5. With regard to the abstract,

the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box No. IV. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this International search report, submit comments to this Authority.
6. With regards to the drawings,
 - a. the figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 1
 - as suggested by the applicant.
 - as selected by this Authority, because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.
 - as selected by this Authority, because this figure better characterizes the invention.
 - b. none of the figures is to be published with the abstract.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No
PCT/US2004/022340

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7	B01L3/00	D04H13/00	B01D29/01	B01D11/02	B01D17/02
	B01J20/28	B32B5/22			

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 B01L D04H B01D B01J B32B

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ, WPI Data

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X ✓	US 6 492 183 B1 (ANSERA TAIB K ET AL) 10 December 2002 (2002-12-10) paragraph '0043! - paragraph '0055!; figures 8A-D	1-34
X ✓	US 2002/155034 A1 (PERMAN CRAIG A ET AL) 24 October 2002 (2002-10-24) column 4, line 28 - column 16, line 21; figures 1-4	1-7, 13-34
A	US 5 368 729 A (STEFKOVICH JOSEPH ET AL) 29 November 1994 (1994-11-29) the whole document	1-34
A ✓	EP 0 498 557 A (MINNESOTA MINING & MFG) 12 August 1992 (1992-08-12) the whole document	1-34
		-/-

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex.

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *E* earlier document but published on or after the International filing date
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X document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

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Date of the actual completion of the International search

Date of mailing of the International search report

30 November 2004

09/12/2004

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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Skowronski, M

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No PCT/US2004/022340

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5 906 796 A (BLEVINS DENNIS D ET AL) 25 May 1999 (1999-05-25) the whole document	1-34

1

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PAGE 7/8 * RCVD AT 1/5/2005 1:57:12 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-1/1 * DNI:8729306 * CSID:651 733 5509 * DURATION (mm:ss):03:30

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US2004/022340

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
✓ US 6492183	B1	10-12-2002	AU 5822999 A CA 2341164 A1 DE 69913180 D1 DE 69913180 T2 EP 1115483 A1 JP 2002524243 T WO 0015331 A1	03-04-2000 23-03-2000 08-01-2004 09-09-2004 18-07-2001 06-08-2002 23-03-2000
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Form PCT/ISA/210 (patent family annex) (January 2004)